

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY SEOUL

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EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, KS, OVIP

SUBJECT: FONMIN KIM VISIT: CALL ON DEPUTY SECRETARY
INGERSOLL

1. FONMIN KIM HAD 45 MINUTE MEETING WITH DEPUTY SECRETARY
INGERSOLL ON MARCH 27. AMBASSADOR HAHM, ROKUN AMBASSADOR
PARK AND AMBASSADOR SNEIDER WERE PRESENT.

2. KOREAN QUESTION AT THE UN: INGERSOLL NOTED THAT FON-
MIN KIM AND ASSISTANT SECRETARY BUFFUM HAD A GOOD DIS-
CUSSION ON OUR JOINT STRATEGY REGARDING KOREAN QUESTION
AT UNGA. INGERSOLL NOTED THAT IT GOOD THAT WE WERE
ABLE TO REACH EARLY AGREEMENT ON OUR UN STRATEGY. KIM
ACKNOWLEDGED THIS BUT STATED HE HAS "NO CONFIDENCE" THAT
WE WILL BE ABLE TO DEFEAT NORTH KOREAN RE"OLUTION. KIM
NOTED NORTH KOREAN SUCCESSES WITH NON-ALIGNED NATIONS AND
HIS EXPECTATION THAT NORTH KOREA WILL BE ADMITTED TO NON-
ALIGNED GROUP. HE ALSO STRESSED THAT IT IS IMPORTANT
THAT IN CONSIDERING ANY POSSIBLE CHANGES IN UNC THAT WE
CONSULT EARLY WITH FRENCH, BRITISH AND OTHERS WHO NOW
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HAVE LIAISOM OFFICERS IN THE COMMAND TO ASSURE THAT UNC

INVOLVES NOT ONLY US BUT ALSO OTHER UN MEMBERS.

3. AID TO CAMBODIA AND VIETNAM: INGERSOLL EXPRESSED OUR APPRECIATION FOR PRESIDENT PARK'S GESTURE RE HUMANITARIAN AID FOR CAMBODIA. HE ALSO MENTIONED OUR HOPE THAT ROKG WOULD BE ABLE TO PROVIDE \$4.1 MILLION IN ASSISTANCE TO VIETNAM IN LIEU OF THE F5A REHABILITATION COSTS. KIM OBVIOUSLY NOT FAMILIAR WITH DETAILS OF OUR DISCUSSIONS WITH ROKG RE \$4.1 MILLION REHABILITATION COST AND MADE NO SUBSTANTIVE COMMENT.

4. VIETNAM/CAMBODIA SITUATION: INGERSOLL GAVE KIM BRIEFING ON CURRENT SITUATION IN CAMBODIA AND VIETNAM. RE CAMBODIA, HE NOTED THAT SITUATION WAS NOT GOOD BUT THERE HAD NOT BEEN A GREAT DEAL OF CHANGE IN RECENT DAYS. AIRLIFT IS STILL CONTINUING AND THE KHMER FORCES ARE ATTEMPTING TO RETAKE AREAS WHICH OTHER SIDE USING TO SHELL AIRPORT. ON VIETNAM, INGERSOLL SAID GVN SITUATION IN NORTH WA- BAD, AND WE ARE GREATLY CONCERNED ABOUT DA NANG. GREAT EFFORTS ARE UNDERWAY TO EVACUATE REFUGEES FROM DA NANG AND CURRENT GVN STRATEGY IS TO HOLD MR III AND IV, BRINGING DOWN ARMY UNITS FROM THE NORTH.

5. FRASER VISIT AND ANTI-SLANDER LAW: INGERSOLL COMMENTED ON BENEFICIAL EFFECT HERE OF EARLIER RELEASE OF EMERGENCY MEASURES PRISONERS AND, IN THAT CONTEXT, NOTED THAT CONGRESSMAN FRASER IS ON HIS WAY TO SEOUL. KIM SAID THAT HE PLEASED THAT FRASER VISITING SEOUL AND SAID THAT HE HAD EARLIER INVITED FRASER TO COME AND SEE ROK DOMESTIC SITUATION FOR HIMSELF.

6. INGERSOLL SAID THAT ON AN INDIVIDUAL BASIS, FRASER IS A REASONABLE MAN WHO LISTENS. WE HAVE HAD MANY DISCUSSIONS WITH HIM ON HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES IN GENERAL, NOT JUST RELATED TO KOREA. HE HAS SEEMED GENERALLY UNDERSTANDING OF THE STATE DEPARTMENT'S APPROACH, ALTHOUGH OBVIOUSLY NOT COMPLETELY SATISFIED.

7. INGERSOLL ALSO MENTIONED ANTI-SLANDER LAW AND IMPACT IT HAS ON BOTH CONGRESSMEN LIKE FRASER AND ON OUR PRESS.

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IN EXPLANATION KIM SAID LAW WAS NOT PASSED FOR POLITICAL REASONS AND ROKG DID NOT INTEND TO BLOCK FREEDOM OF POLITICAL EXPRESSION. HOWEVER, ROKG IS CONCERNED THAT SOME POLITICIANS AND OTHERS HAVE GIVEN FALSE AND MISLEADING INFORMATION AND DISTORTED THE FACTS OF THE KOREAN SITUATION TO FOREIGNERS. FOR EXAMPLE, JAPANESE POLITICIANS IN DIET QUOTE KIM TAE-CHUNG AND KIM YOUNG SAM IN CRITICIZING ROK. INGERSOLL POINTED OUT TO KIM

THAT MEASURES SUCH AS ANTI-SLANDER LAW MAY WELL REACT AGAINST ROK INTERESTS ABROAD AND PRODUCE A COUNTER EFFECT.

8. GULF/ZAPATA DRILLING IN EAST CHINA SEA: INGERSOLL RAISED PROBLEM OF GULF/ZAPATA DRILLING IN DISPUTED AREA IN EAST CHINA SEA. HE POINTED OUT THAT AREA IS OBVIOUSLY A SENSITIVE ONE AND THAT WE WOULD HAVE TO EXPECT SOME PRC REACTION IF THERE WERE DRILLING. CONSEQUENTLY WE HAVE ADVISED GULF THAT IT SHOULD NOT DRILL IN THAT AREA. GULF HAS EXPRESSED CONCERN ABOUT ITS CONTRACTURAL OBLIGATIONS AND HAS EXPRESSED HOPE THAT WE WOULD BRING THE MATTER UP WITH KOREAN GOVERNMENT TO SECURE ITS UNDERSTANDING.

9. IN RESPONSE KIM WAS NON-COMMITTAL, INDICATING THAT DECISION ON DRILLING HAD BEEN A COMMERCIAL ONE, NOT A POLITICAL ONE. AT THE SAME TIME HE NOTED THAT PRC SHOWS NO INDICATION OF BEING WILLING TO NEGOTIATE WITH ROKG. IN THAT CONTEXT HE RAISED POSSIBILITY USG USING ITS "GOOD OFFICES" TO GET PRC TO DISCUSS PROBLEM WITH ROKG.

10. FOR THEIR PART, INGERSOLL AND AMBASSADOR SNEIDER POINTED OUT THAT OUR CONCERN OVER US COMPANY DRILLING IN DISPUTED AREA WAS NOT DIRECTED AGAINST ROK BUT RATHER WAS A PART OF OUR BROADER POLICY DISCOURAGING AMERICAN FIRMS FROM GETTING INVOLVED IN AREAS THAT ARE OBVIOUSLY UNDER DISPUTE.

11. KOREAN NPT RATIFICATION: INGERSOLL CONGRATULATED KIM ON RATIFICATION OF NPT. HE ALSO EXPRESSED HOPE THAT ROKG WOULD SUBMIT INSTRUMENTS OF RATIFICATION IN TIME FOR THE MAY NPT REVIEW CONFERENCE.

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